

To: McLerran, Dennis[mclerran.dennis@epa.gov]; Paulson, Glenn[Paulson.Glenn@epa.gov]; Aicher, Rebecca[Aicher.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Allnutt, David[Allnutt.David@epa.gov]; Butler, Barbara[Butler.Barbara@epa.gov]; Dean, Heather[Dean.Heather@epa.gov]; Dunbar, Bill[dunbar.bill@epa.gov]; Ebersole, Joe[Ebersole.Joe@epa.gov]; Eckman, Sheila[Eckman.Sheila@epa.gov]; Fordham, Tami[Fordham.Tami@epa.gov]; Frithsen, Jeff[Frithsen.Jeff@epa.gov]; Godsey, Cindi[Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov]; Holsman, Marianne[Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]; Hough, Palmer[Hough.Palmer@epa.gov]; Hunter, Christopher[Hunter.Christopher@epa.gov]; Kader, Hanady[Kader.Hanady@epa.gov]; Martinez, Barbara[Martinez.Barbara@epa.gov]; McCarthy, Julia[McCarthy.Julia@epa.gov]; Nalven, Heidi[Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov]; North, Phil[North.Phil@epa.gov]; Parkin, Richard[Parkin.Richard@epa.gov]; Rachel Fertik[Fertik.Rachel@epa.gov]; Schofield, Kate[Schofield.Kate@epa.gov]; Smith, Judy[Smith.Judy@epa.gov]; Steiner-Riley, Cara[Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov]; Suter, Glenn[suter.glenn@epa.gov]; Szerlog, Michael[Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov]; Thiesing, Mary[Thiesing.Mary@epa.gov]; Thomas, Jenny[Thomas.Jenny@epa.gov]; Todd, Jason[Todd.Jason@epa.gov]; Wigington, Jim[Wigington.Jim@epa.gov]
From: Hough, Palmer
Sent: Wed 12/11/2013 8:16:22 PM
Subject: FW: RELEASE: Alaskan Faith Leaders to EPA: Finalize Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment by End of The Year
[faith leaders letter - finalize assessment.pdf](#)

FYI

Palmer Hough, Environmental Scientist
office: 202.566.1374 I mobile: 202.657.3114

Wetlands Division
U.S. EPA Headquarters (MC 4502T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
www.epa.gov/wetlands

From: Stoner, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 3:09 PM
To: Kopocis, Ken; Frithsen, Jeff; Best-Wong, Benita; Evans, David; Hough, Palmer
Subject: Fw: RELEASE: Alaskan Faith Leaders to EPA: Finalize Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment by End of The Year

From: Tyler <tyler@creationjustice.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 2:58:31 PM
To: ganesen.arvin@epa.gov; Stoner, Nancy
Subject: FW: RELEASE: Alaskan Faith Leaders to EPA: Finalize Bristol Bay Watershed

Assessment by End of The Year

Hi Arvin and Nancy –

I wanted to make sure you saw a letter that 5 Alaskan faith leaders sent to the EPA today urging you to finish the Bristol Bay Watershed assessment by the end of the year.

The letter is attached and the release we sent out is below.

Thanks,

Tyler

***Please note new information:*

Tyler Edgar

Interim Executive Director

Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program)

tyler@creationjustice.org

239-560-1560

www.creationjustice.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2013

CONTACT: Tyler Edgar, tyler@creationjustice.org, 239-560-1560

Father David Mahaffey, Orthodox Church in America, 907-677-0224 (available for comment this afternoon)

Alaskan Faith Leaders to EPA: Finalize Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment by End of The Year

Five religious leaders in Alaska write to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to reemphasize concern about the Pebble Mine

Five of Alaska's senior religious leaders urged the EPA to finalize its Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment before the end of the year, a goal previously set by the agency. Faith leaders are a vital part of the coalition formed to protect Bristol Bay from the Pebble Mine, which also includes Alaska Natives, commercial and sport fishermen, outdoors organizations and businesses, chefs and restaurant owners, jewelers, conservationists, and many others.

From the letter: We believe that the Watershed Assessment can help our faith communities better understand the richness and beauty of Bristol Bay and the impact of a mine such as the proposed Pebble Mine on this place and the Alaskan Natives who call it home... Currently more than 80 percent of the Alaskan Natives who live in and around Bristol Bay are opposed to the mine, concerned that their culture, livelihoods, and children's future would be devastated by the Pebble Mine.

Signing the letter were:

Archimandrite David (Mahaffey)
Bishop-elect, Diocese of Sitka and Alaska

Orthodox Church in America

Rev. Dr. David G. Beckett
Superintendent
Alaska United Methodist Conference

Curtis Karns, Executive Presbyter

Presbytery of Yukon

Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime

Bishop

Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

Bishop Shelley Wickstrom

Alaska Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment was initiated after Alaskans, who were deeply concerned about the impacts of the proposed Pebble Mine on southwest Alaska, petitioned the agency for action. The Bristol Bay wild sockeye salmon fishery is one of the world's most valuable, supporting a \$1.5 billion annual economy and 14,000 jobs. Previous drafts of the EPA's Watershed Assessment indicate that mining on the scale of Pebble – which would be North America's largest open pit mine – could destroy up to 4,800 acres of wetland salmon habitat and 90 miles of salmon-spawning streams even without accident. When finalized, the Watershed Assessment would provide the scientific foundation for future regulatory action in Bristol Bay, including a Clean Water Act 404c determination.

The full letter can be read below and is also attached.

The Honorable Gina McCarthy

Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

William Jefferson Clinton Building Mail Code 1101A

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, DC 20460

December 11, 2013

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

As senior religious leaders in Alaska, we have been following with great interest the Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing Watershed Assessment of Bristol Bay and look forward to its final release. While we recognize that the recent government shutdown and the sequester are limiting your agency's ability to work, we urge you to finalize the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment before the end of the year.

The issue of Bristol Bay and the proposed Pebble Mine are of immense concern here in Alaska. The Orthodox Church, the primary faith community in and around Bristol Bay, has urged us to "reject any development that in any way threatens the viability, purity and sanctity of the natural world, especially the rivers and lakes which we hold sacred by both God's original blessing." They have also highlighted that they would

"welcome God's Blessing upon all those who would bring economic development to our communities provided they can prove by successful and continuing operation elsewhere on earth, and that they can conduct such activities without potential or significant harm to the natural environment or polluting the waters which we hold blessed and sacred."

We believe that the Watershed Assessment can help our faith communities better understand the richness and beauty of Bristol Bay and the impact of a mine such as the proposed Pebble Mine on this place and the Alaskan Natives who call it home.

Currently more than 80 percent of the Alaskan Natives who live in and around Bristol Bay are opposed to the mine, concerned that their culture, livelihoods, and children's future would be devastated by the Pebble Mine. As Senator Murkowski stated in her letter to the Pebble Partnership "anxiety, frustration and confusion have become the norm in many communities" as

a result of the many years of waiting on this project. Your draft assessment indicates that their concerns are valid and this important document will serve as an invaluable resource for determining the appropriate next steps in addressing the proposed Pebble Mine

.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months and hope that you are able to finalize the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment by the end of 2013. Thank you for your continued work and ministry.

-###-



Lewis Lowe
Communications Director, Federal Affairs
Strategies 360
801 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Suite 715
Washington, DC 20004
T 202-333-2234
F 202-333-2289
C 706-302-8404

lewisl@strategies360.com

www.strategies360.com/washington-dc-office